

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 SP-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /025 W  
----- 068173

P R 081415Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 0538  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
DOT/USCG WASHINGTON DC  
DA WASHINGTON DC  
USMTM DHARHAN SAUDI ARABIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0538

E.O. 11652 : GDS  
TAGS : MASS, BA  
SUBJECT : HELICOPTER TRAINING FOR BAHRAIN DEFENSE  
FORCE OFFICERS

REF : (A) STATE 090084  
(B) MANAMA 0433

1. AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED TWICE WITH CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE  
MINISTER QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE HELICOPTER TRAINING FOR LT.  
SHAIKH HAMED BIN EBRAHIM AL-KHALIFA. WE HAVE MADE POINT OF IMPORTANCE  
WE  
ASSUME GOB ATTACHES TO IMPROVED SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES  
AND OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT BAHRAINI OFFICERS RECEIVING HELICOPTER  
TRAINING HAVE THIS COURSE. AMBASSADOR HAS FURTHERMORE QUESTIONED  
TO CROWN PRINCE SUITABILITY OF GUNNERY TRAINING FOR BAHRAINI  
OFFICERS, ON GROUNDS OF NEED AND IN LIGHT OF U.S.-GULF ARMS  
POLICY, EXPLAINING IT UNLIKELY USG WOULD AGREE TO SELL HELI-  
COPTER MOUNTED MINI GUNS AND ROCKETS TO BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE  
(BDF) SHOULD IT SO REQUEST.

2. CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE MINISTER'S REPONSE WAS:

A. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF PRIORITY GOB SHOULD BE  
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ATTACHING TO IMPROVING ITS COASTAL SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY, BUT

THIS IS POLICE FUNCTION NOT WITHIN RESPONSIBILITY OF DEFENSE  
MINISTRY AND BDF. HENCE, HIS OFFICERS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE  
CANDIDATES FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING; AND  
B. WHILE BDF HOPES TO ACQUIRE HELICOPTERS IN FUTURE,  
IT HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO DEVELOP AN ASSAULT TROOP GUNNERY  
SUPPORT CAPABILITY. REASON BDF WANTS LT. SHAIKH HAMED, AND  
A COLLEAGUE WHOSE TRAINING HAS BEEN FORMALLY REQUESTED, TO  
RECEIVE GUNNERY COURSE IS TO GIVE THEM BROADEST POSSIBLE  
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND IN MILITARY HELICOPTER OPERATIONS  
TO PERMIT THEM TO DEVELOP AS SENIOR HELICOPTER PILOTS OF BDF.  
CROWN PRINCE NOTED TO AMBASSADOR HIS CONVICTION THAT THESE TWO  
OFFICERS WOULD NOT BE "PLAUSIBLE" MILITARY HELICOPTER PILOTS  
WITHOUT SUCH TRAINING. HENCE, TO AN EXTENT, THIS TRAINING IS  
DESIRED FOR INTANGIBLE REASONS RATHER THAN FOR PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION. AMBASSADOR HAS SUBSEQUENTLY REVIEWED ABOVE WITH  
FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS GENERALLY COOL TOWARD BDF REQUESTS  
BUT SUPPORTS THIS ONE.

3. RECOMMENDATION: AS INTERESTED WASHINGTON PARTIES AWARE,  
BDF SOMETIMES HAS UNREALISTIC EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING GOALS  
BUT GOB HAS KEPT A VERY TIGHT GRIP TO DATE ON THEIR ACQUISITIONS  
AND ACTIVITIES. REQUEST FOR GUNNERY COURSE IS A FORMAL REQUEST  
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND HENCE HAS FORMAL GOB APPROVAL.  
IN VIEW OF THIS FACT, AND IN LIGHT OF CROWN PRINCE'S COMMENTS  
NOTED ABOVE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND PROVIDING GUNNERY TRAINING  
AS PART OF OVERALL HELICOPTER COURSE FOR LT. SHAIKH HAMED BIN  
EBRAHIM AL-KHALIFA AND HIS COLLEAGUE.

4. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE SECOND  
OFFICER TO RECEIVE TRAINING ALONG WITH LT. SHAIKH HAMED.  
DETAILS SEPTEL.  
TWINAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 08 MAY 1975  
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